

Message Text

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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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NAIROBI FOR AMBASSADOR DALE, UNCTAD IV

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:WHO

SUBJECT: WHO: MIDDLE EAST QUESTION

SUMMARY: SPECIAL COMMITTEE HAS PRODUCED REMARKABLY OBJECTIVE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS OF HEALTH CONDITIONS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. CONCLUSIONS IN REPORT PRESENT ARABS OR OTHERS WITH DIFFICULT STARTING POINT FOR PROSECUTING FURTHER THIS ASPECT OF 1975 RESOLUTION, AND THERE ARE SIGNS THEY MAY BE BACKING AWAY FROM THIS. SIMILARLY DIRECTOR GENERAL MAHLER HAS REPORTED ON PROGRESS MADE IN ESTABLISHING 10-15 FELLOW-SHIPS FOR MEDICAL STUDIES. MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, HOWEVER, IN SAME REPORT TO ASSEMBLY MAHLER REVEALED FOR FIRST TIME (A) WHO DISCUSSIONS WITH PLO IN DAMASCUS IN JANUARY, (B) WHO PROPOSAL TO PLO TO ESTABLISH REHABILITATION CENTER AND HELP TRAIN STAFF, AND (C) SHIPMENT BY WHO OF "SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT" OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES AS RESULT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. REPORT OF THREE MEMBER SPECIAL COMMITTEE CIRCULATED
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TO DELEGATIONS MAY 10 (COPIES BEING MAILED TO ADDRESSEES).

PREPARED AS JOINT REPORT OF FINDINGS OF CHAIRMAN WONE (SENEGAL), IONESCU (ROMANIA) AND TRASTOTENOJO (INDONESIA) ON BASIS OF THEIR SEPARATE VISITS TO OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, DOCUMENT STRIKES US AS REMARKABLY OBJECTIVE AND STRAIGHT-FORWARD RENDERING OF FACTS. CONCLUSIONS REPORT DRAWS APPEAR ON SURFACE TO BE FAIR ONES, AND ISRAELI DELEGATION MEMBERS HAVE EXPRESSED NO COMPLAINTS ON THIS SCORE IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM. INDEED, ISRAELI DELEGATION IS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED AT PRODUCT WHICH EVENTUATED FROM THIS ASPECT OF ARAB INITIATIVE.

2. IT MAY BE THAT ARABS RECOGNIZE THAT THIS ASPECT OF THEIR INITIATIVE HAS MISFIRED AND THEY MAY HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THIS CRITICISM CANNOT BE PURSUED EFFECTIVELY NOW THAT ACTUAL SITUATION HAS BEEN SURVEYED AND THE RELEVANT FACTS HAVE BEEN SET OUT. REPORT WILL COME FIRST BEFORE COMMITTEE B, AND SECRETARY OF COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED AT CLOSE OF BUSINESS MAY 11 THAT, AS RESULT OF CONSULTATIONS CHAIRMAN HAS HAD WITH DELEGATIONS (PRESUMABLY ARAB, AND THEREAFTER ISRAELI), IT HAS BEEN AGREED TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF ITEM TO "LATEST POSSIBLE MOMENT" ON COMMITTEE CALENDAR. WHEN QUERIED ABOUT ARAB INTENTIONS, JORDANIAN REP CONFINED HIMSELF TO EXPLANATION THAT ARAB DELEGATIONS REQUIRED TIME TO OBTAIN INSTRUCTIONS. FOREIGN MINISTRY MEMBER OF SOVIET DELEGATION PROFESSED RATHER LAMELY LATE MAY 11 STILL NOT TO HAVE READ DOCUMENT. AFRICANS APPEAR DISINTERESTED IN SUBJECT, AND FACT WONE IS PRINCIPAL AUTHOR OF REPORT SHOULD POSE SIGNIFICANT OBSTACLE TO ANY ARAB EFFORTS TO TRY TO DISCREDIT IT.

3. AS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF OTHER TWO ASPECTS OF 1975 WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION (WHA 28.35), DIRECTOR GENERAL MAHLER CIRCULATED REPORT ON (A) ACTION TAKEN TO ESTABLISH 10-15 FELLOWSHIPS FOR MEDICAL STUDIES, AND (B) ACTION TAKEN IN CONFORMITY WITH RESOLUTION "TO COOPERATE WITH THE PLO CONCERNING ASSISTANCE TO BE RENDERED TO THE PALESTINIAN POPULATION." ON LATTER ASPECT MAHLER REVEALED IN HIS REPORT THAT A WHO MISSION HAD VISITED DAMASCUS JANUARY 14-18 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH PLO, AND THAT HE HAD FOLLOWED THESE UP WITH PROPOSAL FEBRUARY 11 (A) TO SEND WHO EXPERT TO EXPLORE PROBLEM OF ESTABLISHING A REHABILITATION CENTER AND (B) TO CONTRIBUTE TO TRAINING ITS STAFF. REPORT STATES THAT NO RESPONSE YET RECEIVED FROM PLO TO HIS PROPOSAL. MAHLER GOES ON TO REPORT, HOWEVER, THAT "A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES INTENDED TO MEET THE MOST

URGENT NEEDS OF PALESTINIAN POPULATION" WAS SENT AT END OF FEBRUARY. GENERAL DESCRIPTION GIVEN OF THE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT SENT. (COPIES OF MAHLER'S REPORT ALSO BEING MAILED ADDRESSEES.)

4. WHILE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR RONN EXPRESSED HIS ANNOYANCE TO US PRIVATELY ABOUT SECRECY WITH WHICH MAHLER HAD GONE ABOUT HIS CONTACTS WITH PLO AND SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS HE HAD TAKEN ON THIS ASPECT OF RESOLUTION, HEAD OF ISRAELI DELEGATION APPEARED TO SHARE OUR INFORMAL VIEW THAT AT THIS STAGE THERE PROBABLY WAS MORE TO BE LOST THAN GAINED BY A FLOOR FIGHT OVER PARTICULARS OF WHAT MAHLER HAD DONE GIVEN EXPLICITNESS OF DIRECTIVE GIVEN TO HIM IN RESOLUTION. MISOFF ACKNOWLEDGED TO RONN THAT US, TOO, HAD BEEN KEPT IN DARK ABOUT THESE ACTIONS DESPITE SEVERAL DEEP EXCHANGES WITH MAHLER ABOUT HIS HANDLING OF GENERAL QUESTION.

5. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHAT COURSE ASSEMBLY MAY TAKE IN TREATING SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT AND MAHLER'S REPORT, AND DELEGATION WILL REPORT FURTHER AS THIS BECOMES CLEARER. IN MEANTIME DELEGATION WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING WHATEVER GUIDANCE DEPT MAY WISH TO PROVIDE ON HANDLING OF NEWLY REVEALED SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO PLO OUTLINED PARAS 3 AND 4 ABOVE.ABRAMS

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